

James, Peter N.

Pratt &amp; Whitney

AIRCRAFT

Soc 4.01.2 Soviet  
Conquest From Space  
(orig under James)

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Empathy

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FULL TEXT

FRED FISKE: Peter N. James is an aerospace engineer who for six years operated as a spy, a technological informant for the CIA, until he came in from the cold and lost his job as a result.

Good evening. Nice to see you.

PETER JAMES: Good evening.

FISKE: What kind of engineering do you do?

JAMES: I was with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in Florida as a space engineer. Did some [unintelligible] analysis on advanced space launch vehicle.

FISKE: How did you get from that to doing spy work?

JAMES: Well, it just happens to be an accident. My wife Diane and I visited Europe in 1965 to attend an international space conference in Athens, Greece, and while we were there we ran into several Soviet scientists, at which point we had an opportunity to discuss shop talk with them, science and technology, and when we returned back to Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, we had a visitor from the Central Intelligence Agency who was introduced to both of us by the chief of security. And he just wanted to debrief us on the information that we may have learned from the Soviets due to our initial contact.

FISKE: Obviously then, you were under surveillance when you were overseas.

JAMES: Quite possibly. Somebody turned in the report that we did have the contacts with the Soviets. That's correct. So then after 1965 we made it a ritual to return to the European continent once a year and combine our love